



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR  | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/837,094      | 04/18/2001  | James M. Sheppard JR. | 3129                | 8428             |

7590

11-03/2003

DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS & HOFER  
GREGORY N. CLEMENTS  
1901 ROXBOROUGH ROAD  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28211

EXAMINER

BEFUMO, JENNA LEIGH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20230  
www.uspto.gov

Paper No.

Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)

The amendment document filed on 10/23/03 is considered non-compliant because it has failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121, as amended on June 30, 2003 (see 68 Fed. Reg. 38611, Jun. 30, 2003). In order for the amendment document to be compliant, correction of the following omission(s) or provision is required. **Only the section (1.121(h)) of the amendment document containing the omission or non-compliant provision must be resubmitted (in its entirety), e.g., the entire "Amendments to the claims" section of applicant's amendment document must be re-submitted.**

THE FOLLOWING CHECKED (X) ELEMENTS(S) CAUSE THE AMENDMENT DOCUMENT TO BE NON-COMPLIANT:

- ☐ 1. Amendments to the specification:
- ☐ A. Amended paragraph(s) do not include markings.
  - ☐ B. New paragraph(s) should not be underlined.
  - ☐ C. Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2. Abstract:
- ☐ A. Not presented on a separate sheet. 37 CFR 1.72.
  - ☐ B. Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3. Amendments to the drawings: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ 4. Amendments to the claims:
- ☒ A. A complete listing of all of the claims is not present.
  - ☐ B. The listing of claims does not include the text of all claims (incl. withdrawn claims)
  - ☐ C. Each claim has not been provided with the proper status identifier, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified.
  - ☐ D. The claims of this amendment paper have not been presented in ascending numerical order.
  - ☐ E. Other: Claims 1-20 are missing should be listed such as

Claims 1-20 (cancelled)  
For further explanation of the amendment format required by 37 CFR 1.121, see MPEP Sec. 714 and the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/officeflyer.pdf>.

If the non-compliant amendment is a **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**, applicant is given **ONE MONTH** from the mail date of this letter to supply the corrected section which complies with 37 CFR 1.121. Failure to comply with 37 CFR 1.121 will result in non-entry of the preliminary amendment and examination on the merits will commence without consideration of the proposed changes in the preliminary amendment(s). This notice is not an action under 35 U.S.C. 132, and this **ONE MONTH** time limit is not extendable.

If the non-compliant amendment is a reply to a **NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**, and since the amendment appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to be a reply (37 CFR 1.135(c)), applicant is given a **TIME PERIOD** of **ONE MONTH** from the mailing of this notice within which to re-submit the corrected section which complies with 37 CFR 1.121 in order to avoid abandonment. **EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD ARE AVAILABLE UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

If the amendment is a reply to a **FINAL REJECTION**, this form may be an attachment to an Advisory Action. **The period for response to a final rejection continues to run from the date set in the final rejection**, and is not affected by the non-compliant status of the amendment.

*Ruth W. Wenzel* 713-308-2810  
Legal Instruments Examiner (1.15)

## REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Technical Support Staff

Requirements of the revised amendment practice of the final rule for all amendments filed on or after July 30, 2003 :

1. Each amendment section must begin on a separate sheet
2. A separate "clean" version of a currently amended paragraph or claim is **NO LONGER REQUIRED** (except for a substitute specification – see No. 5 below)
3. If the amendment adds, changes, or deletes any claim, a listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, must be provided as follows:
  - The claims must be listed in ascending numerical order
  - The text of all pending claims including withdrawn claims must be presented; no text for "canceled" or "not entered" claims
  - A status identifier must be presented in parentheses after the claim number for each claim; only the following identifiers are permitted: (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), and (not entered)
  - All "currently amended" claims must have markings to show changes; the only markings permitted are underlining for added matter, strikethrough and double brackets [[ ]] (for five or fewer characters) for deleted matter
  - Grouping of consecutive "canceled" or "not entered" claims permitted (e.g., claims 2-8 (canceled))
4. Upon receipt of a complete listing of all claims, LIEs should cancel all previous versions of claims in the application by drawing a line through the previous versions of claims
5. Amendments to the specification by marked-up replacement paragraphs or sections only - no clean replacement paragraph or section is required; **NO** replacement sheets permitted
  - Note, however, that for substitute specifications, rule 1.125 continues to require both a clean and marked-up copy
6. Drawing changes without markings - clean replacement drawing sheets only – annotated sheet(s) showing changes may be submitted
  - Explanation separately provided

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): A bucket with a handle.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A handle comprising an elongated wire.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The handle of claim 7 further comprising a plastic grip.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A bucket with a ~~green~~ blue handle.

Claim 10 (original): The bucket of claim 9 wherein the handle is made of wood.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (not entered)

Claim 13 (new): A bucket with plastic sides and bottom.

*Sample*